

**Cherry Valley Historical Society Newsletter**  
Second Quarter – 2022



Dear Historical Society Members,

We have been working on cleaning and placing artifacts in the glass cabinets, cleaning the storage room, and reviewing documents that need filing. A special thank you to Youngberg Industries owner Tom Larson for donating a computer and software. We are planning our first open house on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Village Board of Trustees are considering budgeting for new windows and a new furnace for the museum. Please send us your membership dues and consider donating to help with the renovations and supplies.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Belt, President



The following people have passed away since the last newsletter:

Bill Whitlock	86	Nov. 2021
Joe Fors	52	Jan. 2022
Wes Schumaker	66	Jan. 2022
Vicky Cronk	74	Feb. 2022
Ted Pierce	74	Feb. 2022



CVHS is always looking for Cherry Valley memorabilia. If you have interesting items in your attic, garage, basement, etc., please consider sharing them at our museum.



### **Cherry Valley Cemetery**

Imagine if Route 20 and Harrison Avenue did not exist. Instead, the lush green pasture with multiple species of trees and wildflowers extended unimpeded northward up the peaceful hill, where someone buried their beloved two-month-old baby, Mary Horton, on January 27, 1839. This is the oldest gravestone in the Cherry Valley Cemetery.



In 1850, the Poulton family purchased the property at Harrison Avenue and Mill Road (just outside of Cherry Valley). The family would sell the lots and give a deed as the receipt. One could purchase a plot for as little as \$50 with a \$35 perpetual care fee. In 1905, the Secretary of State approved a petition to organize the Cherry Valley Cemetery Association. The association elected trustees to care for and maintain the property, even though it was and still is property of the Poulton family. Today, the Winnebago County Clerk's office appoints trustees.



*The cemetery is not without its mysteries. Marshall S. Pritchard's tombstone reads that he was "assassinated" on January 17, 1879 at 34 years of age. It is known that he was the tax collector, so perhaps someone disagreed with their taxes.*



Occupying another grave is a motorcyclist who could not be separated from his beloved machine, which is buried with him. Initially buried in the wrong area, both man and motorcycle had to be interred and reburied.

While it is rumored that Native Americans have been laid to rest in the cemetery, no proof has been found. If rumors are true, they likely occupy the area known as "Potters Field," located on the south side near Harrison Avenue. People who were unable to purchase a grave were placed in this area.



*Family plots are common in our cemetery. Generations have spent their lives living in and building the Cherry Valley community.*



*Many stones honor our amazing military citizens from the civil war. Marshall Pritchard's brother Asa died in Memphis, Tennessee in January 1863. WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam veterans are represented.*

Currently the cemetery has no more usable burial plots, and without permission of the Poulton family, the unused land cannot be used for gravesites. The plan of the current trustees is to create a garden where the remains of loved ones can be scattered and honored with a name plate.

*Donations are appreciated and may be made to:*

Attn Donna Riha  
Cherry Valley Cemetery Association  
3937 Genoa Rd  
Cherry Valley, IL 61016



### **Village Garage Sale**

*Yellow Dot Sale for the Historical Society:*

May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>  
8:00am to 4:00pm  
113 East Street, Cherry Valley, IL

*Donations are appreciated. Item drop off times:*

May 11<sup>th</sup> between 10:00am and 6:00pm  
May 12<sup>th</sup> between 4:00 and 8:00pm

*Questions:*

Call or text Pat at (815) 332-4412



### **Cherry Valley Historical Society's Open House**

Please join us on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> between 1:00 and 3:00pm. Many changes have been made to the building and new displays are open for your viewing. Learn about how Cherry Valley was established and about some of the amazing families and businesses that have made this quaint village into what it is today. See you there!



### **Membership and Dues**

If you have not yet paid your 2022 Historical Society membership dues, consider a new and improved Lifetime Membership! For a donation of just \$100, you will no longer need to remember to send your annual gift. Thank you for your consideration!



Please let our sponsors know you saw their advertisement here. We appreciate their patronage!

Thank you to the Cherry Valley Village Hall for their continued support and assistance.

Feel free to drop a line, add some content, or share some stories to the Historical Society's email:

**[cvhs.1899@gmail.com](mailto:cvhs.1899@gmail.com)**

or share via mail:

**Cherry Valley Historical Society, Box 266, Cherry Valley, IL 61016**



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Cherry Valley  
  
 Methodist Women

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**Cherry Valley Mens Club**  
 Serving the Cherry Valley Area  
 Cherry Valley Men's Club is a 501 C3 non-profit organization Fed Tax # 90-0674903